



Welcome to our Newsletter!

[AEC Web Site](#)

September 27, 2012

Attend the AEC's Next Meeting!

The Annapolis Environmental Commission's (AEC) meetings are open to the public. We hope you'll join our upcoming discussion about environmental issues facing our city on Wednesday, October 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the third floor conference room at 145 Gorman Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. Our meeting dates have changed! AEC meetings will now be held on the first Wednesday of every month.

Update of the Reserve at Quiet Waters

The Annapolis Board of Appeals blocked the controversial Reserve at Quiet Waters housing development with a surprise 3-1 vote on Wednesday, September 19th. The Board did not address the "vast" environmental testimony presented, as they seemed to think that they could not do so because the Forest Conservation Act (FCA) issues will be heard by the Building Board of Appeals at some undetermined date in the future.

This underscores the very real problem the City faces by continuing to review large developments by looking at the natural features of a property separately from the forest issues. Some Board members understood that forest **is** a natural feature and that a site plan review process should encompass review of forest issues in order to arrive at a well reasoned decision.

The AEC has brought the issue to the Mayor's attention. Hopefully, our City will fix this process so that site plan reviews in the future will not separate the forest issues and have them reviewed by a different body from the one reviewing the rest of the site plan. This will ensure that future development projects are reviewed more comprehensively than what happened with the Reserve at Quiet Waters.

Check out these links to the [Patch](#) and [Capital Gazette](#) articles.

Update on the Crystal Spring Project

AEC representatives will meet with the developers of Crystal Spring in a few days to try to reach a compromise that we feel will preserve more forest on site, at least 60%. This should

be easy since the city agrees with us that the entire forest is considered Priority Forest under the Forest Conservation Act. As such it should be preserved, unless there is justification, deemed reasonable by DNEP, to destroy it.

We understand that the buck stops with the Mayor and continue to ask him to make the Crystal Spring development a model for the environmental needs of the city as well as growth. City staff could make critical recommendations about how much forest is saved on the property. Without the backing of the city, we may be limited in preserving as much of the forest as we would like. It is completely within the city's discretion to save as much of the 80 acres of forest on site as they wish. The AEC helped review the Crystal Spring developers' Forest Stand Delineation, finding it in need of substantial revisions. The City agreed.

Young Environmentalist Appreciation

The AEC would like to thank 12 year old Josalyn Bonney of Eastport for holding an organic lemonade sale this past summer. The proceeds went to the [Rainforest Foundation](#). She used fresh ingredients donated by Whole Foods and sustainable Greenware cups derived from corn. Thank you Josalyn!

Events Calendar

Want to learn how to install a rain barrel? - October 18th and 19th, 2012

Join Mainstreets Annapolis Partnership's Green Team and AEC Commissioner Rick Kissel on Thursday, October 18, to help prep, and Friday, October 19, to help install. For more information and to sign up, contact the MAP Clean, Safe and Green Team at info@mainstreetsannapolis.org.

Spa Creek Conservancy - Stewardship Workshop & Luncheon - October 25, 2012

The Spa Creek Conservancy invites you to the Spa Creek Stewardship Workshop & Luncheon featuring Local Seafood. 12-2 p.m. Fish Shack, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office, Annapolis City Marina

Did you know that Sustainable Annapolis is on Facebook?
Follow [this link](#).

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***October 3, 7:00 p.m.
145 Gorman Street, 3rd floor conference room***

*The AEC is an independent board consisting of nine City residents who are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Aldermen to be concerned with the protection and improvement of the natural health and welfare of the environment.
The views portrayed by the AEC are not necessarily shared by the City of Annapolis, staff or elected officials.*

www.annapolis.gov/environment
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